

Lewis Williams to Andrew Jackson, February 2, 1833, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

LEWIS WILLIAMS TO JACKSON.

Washington, February 2, 1833.

Sir, Jesse Lister Esqr formerly resided at a place called Richmond in Surry County North Carolina. It was the seat of justice in the County and many years ago you attended there as a Lawyer at the Courts.¹ Lester is now dead, but his Heirs say that you stand charged on his Books for the amount of your board etc at one of the Courts you attended. The amount is about ten dollars and the Heirs are in reduced circumstances so as to need the money. They have authorized me to make application to you for the money, and think they are entitled to interest as well as the principal. It is not in my power to call on you personally today, and I must therefore take the liberty to trouble you with a letter. I should be glad to hear from you on the subject as soon as your convenience will permit.

¹ This claim is probably associated with an old story that a tavern-keeper in North Carolina had on his books an unpaid charge against Jackson and that, in 1815, he wrote against it words indicating that it was discharged by Jackson's winning the victory at New Orleans.

I am Sir your most Obt and very Hbl. Servt.

[*Indorsement in Jackson's handwriting:*] answer with respects. acknowledges the receipt of his note, expresses surprise that Mr. L. had not applied in 1788, as he passed his House on his way to the West and still more if the demand was just, that he had not called

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for it in his life time. assures him that it is not a just debt, that the whole history of his life shews his punctuality in meeting all his engagements of this kind

February 2nd 1833.